INCOMING TELEGRAM (16) Department of State

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FROM: Jidda

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 387, January 16, 8 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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My telegram 376.

(1) Re tentative planning for King's state visit following 3 days in Washington (i.e., 4 days in New York, 2 days in Boston and visit to SAC base Omaha) Yasin first said he could comment only after consulting King in Cairo where he expects receive messenger from Saudi Embassy Washington.

Then, commenting on informal basis, he reacted very much as I forecast in October. In particular, he took specific exception to visiting New York so early during King's stay; it would be far better, he thought, if this were to be just before King left US, especially were King to address United Nations, because what His Majesty would say would depend in considerable measure on results his discussions and ensuing negotiations in Washington.

Further, Boston in winter did not appeal to him; and, as to Omaha, he said that, while SAC base held forth much of interest, King had said he wished so far as possible avoid air travel.

(2) My next telegram will report tentative list of Royal Party. Department will note King now includes his eldest son Prince Fahad, appointed Defense Minister only fortnight ago. We trust special thought will be given to giving him simple indoctrination in American defense organization and training. He is starting from scratch.

I am bringing just completed revision of "5-year plan" for expansion of Saudi armed forces, prepared jointly by our MAAG and Saudi staff officers. He has approved it for submission to King. He and his advisers will, I believe, wish review it thoroughly with officials our Defense Department.

(3) Re last paragraph Department telegram 499 I gave King at audience January 13 (my telegram 375) brief summary new DAF proposals.

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DAF proposals (Department telegram 266 to Dhahran). He was pleased, particularly by assurance that letters of offer would be sent Saudi Embassy before his arrival in US for substantial portion of longstanding $35 million arms order. He asked that, if possible, ammunition be included (my telegram 328 from Dhahran).

WADSWORTH

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